

Appl. No. 09/988,896
Amdt. dated November 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-19 were pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claim 12 is canceled without prejudice, claims 1 and 13 are amended, leaving claims 1-11 and 13-19 pending. Claims 7-11 and 14-19 are allowed. Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. Claims 12 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,819,075 issued to Forsmo (hereafter "Forsmo"). Claim 13 stands objected to. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added in this response.

§112 Rejections

Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the parenthetical references. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections have been obviated and that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 are now in condition for allowance.

§102(b) Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 USC §102(b) in view of Forsmo. Applicants have canceled claim 12 without prejudice. Therefore, the rejections under 35 USC §102(b) are now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Per the Examiner's remarks in the Office Action, claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form including all intervening claims and is now in condition for Allowance. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 7-11 and 14-19.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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